

January 4, 2021

South Carolina: December temperatures were generally on par with historic averages. Total rainfall during the month ranged from 0.8 inches to 6.3 inches. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 13 percent of the state was experiencing abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to 6 percent at the beginning of the month. The abnormally dry conditions remained confined to the southwestern border of the state. In central and eastern counties, occasional heavy rains delayed harvesting of late-season row crops and planting of small grains and cover crops. There were limited reports of abandoned cotton and soybean acres in the Midlands as a result of prolonged saturated soil. Most producers finished planting winter wheat, and the crop was progressing well. Overall, winter wheat condition was fair to good. Late-month freezes widely damaged uncovered or unprotected brassica greens. Strawberries were progressing nicely, and producers continued to treat for spider mites as needed. Vegetable crops in the Lowcountry were harvested under ideal conditions throughout the month. Pastures and cattle were in fair to good condition. Excessive rainfall in the Pee Dee region caused some health concerns in livestock, including coccidia, pneumonia, and salmonella. Winter annuals had slow growth from excessive moisture, but their establishment was generally good.